

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 6, at line 10, as follows:

To ensure a steady supply of top quality produce during the harvesting period, commercial production of the green Cicer bean requires that certain agronomic practices be followed such that growing and spacing of the plantings allows the green Cicer beans to mature in rhythm with processing plant capabilities. Suitable methods for planting Cicer beans such that harvest of the green product can be timed with processing plant capabilities are disclosed by U.S. Application Serial No. _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. TDMF 1-21766~~) 10/713,553, filed concurrently with the present application and hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. One goal of Cicer bean production as a green commodity is to minimize stockpiling and the need for cold storage and to also minimize the risks associated with storing the green Cicer bean after harvesting but before processing.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 11, at line 20, as follows:

With reference now to FIGURE 2, one embodiment of a suitable system for processing green Cicer beans is explained. The embodiment depicted by FIGURE 2 includes an initial conveyor belt 46 responsible for transporting green Cicer beans (or any other podded produce) to bucket elevator 48 after the harvested beans are dropped off at the processing plant. A typical green Cicer bean harvest will be comprised mostly of depodded green Cicer beans (i.e., green Cicer beans that have been shelled or "depodded" through mechanical threshing techniques). Suitable mechanical threshing techniques for the green Cicer bean are described in concurrently filed Application Serial No. _____ (~~Attorney Docket No. TDMF 1-21765~~) 10/714,409, now issued as U.S. Pat. No. 6,960,131, and that application is hereby incorporated by reference in its entirety. In any mechanical harvest of a leguminous crop, it is not uncommon to collect "unthreshed" product, or product that is still securely held within a pod. In addition to unthreshed beans, a harvested green Cicer crop delivered to a processing plant will have dirt,

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stones, and other debris, including leaf trash and stem trash which must be separated from the threshed green Cicer beans prior to weighing the load to determine yield. Traditional processing of green legumes does not provide an opportunity to increase yields by offering a second chance to depod or thresh the product after harvest and delivery to a processing plant. Green Cicer beans within the tight leathery pod capture air and float. Consequently, there is an opportunity for secondary processing, through which yields may be increased by removing pods from podded produce after delivery to the processing plant. Methods for secondary processing, including depodding the un-threshed Cicer beans at a secondary processing line, are part of the invention and are described in greater detail with reference to FIGURE 3.